

May 12, 2009

Dear Friends,

Thank you for attending the Second Supervisorial District Empowerment Summit. Our theme for today's Summit is "*The May 19th Special Election and the California Budget Crisis: Why Vote?*" On behalf of the Empowerment Congress Leadership Council and all of our members, I proudly welcome you to Exposition Park, a spectacular center here in the Second District.

Today's Summit will focus on the six Statewide propositions on the May 19th Special Election Ballot and is intended to inform the Empowerment Congress and the entire Second District constituency – represented by you – about what each proposition means and their broader policy and budget implications. The importance of informed constituent participation in the legislative process cannot be overestimated.

The enclosed Easy Voter Guide, designed by the League of Women Voters will provide you with nonpartisan information on the six propositions. You will also find enclosed background information on the Empowerment Congress and membership materials for the organization. I hope that you find this information and your participation in today's Summit useful in terms of helping you to become more informed before you cast your vote and understanding the implications of the state budget on your daily lives.

I encourage you to make this Summit one of many regular interactions with the Empowerment Congress and my office, which can be reached at (213) 974-2222. Thank you again for your attendance and participation.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Ridley-Thomas".

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District